

Message Text

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16

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 OIC-02

ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04

ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11

JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01

PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAL-01 FEA-01

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R 180744Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2368

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

EC MISSION BRUSSELS

USUN NEW YORK 604

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 0921

FROM RFA/EUROPE

PASS COMMERCE NOAA/WALLACE, MMFS/BLONDIN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FO, DA

SUBJECT: FAEROE ISLANDS, LOS POSITION

1. DANISH NEWSPAPERS QUOTE MR. ATLI DAM, PRIME MINISTER

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OF THE FAERROE ISLANDS, AS SAYING THAT THERE IS A

BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DANISH AND FAEROESE POSITION ON LOS; THE FAEROESE ARE DEMANDING A 200 MILE COASTAL ZONE WHILE DENMARK OPPOSES SUCH ACTION. HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT HE HOPED BOTH DENMARK AND THE EC WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE FAEROESE POSITION IS DUE TO THEIR DEPENDENCE ON THE FISHING INDUSTRY. THE PM ALSO INDICATED THAT IN THE FUTURE THE FAEROESE WOULD REDUCE SUBSTANTIALLY FOREIGN FISHING FLEET ACTIVITY WITHIN THEIR 200 MILE ZONE. HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME, THEY WANT FISHING RIGHTS IN THE COASTAL ZONES OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THEY REALIZE THAT THEY ARE ASKING FOR CONCESSIONS WITHOUT GIVING ANYTHING IN RETURN AND HOPED THE DANISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC, COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT THE FAEROES ARE PART OF DENMARK, WOULD RESULT IN THE EC KEEPING A 1974 AGREEMENT (SEE COMMENT) INTACT. MR. DAM SAID HE WAS REMINDED OF PROMISES BY THE EC TO SHOW APPRECIATION FOR THE STRUCTURE OF THE FAEROESE SOCIETY AND ITS DEPENDENCE ON ITS ONE INDUSTRY, FISHERIES.

2. COMMENT: THE 1974 AGREEMENT REFERRED TO BY THE PM PROVIDED FOR A REDUCTION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES BETWEEN THE EC AND THE FAEROES. THE REDUCTION OF THE FOREIGN FLEET ACTIVITIES WOULD PRIMARILY AFFECT THE U.K. WHICH CURRENTLY IS TAKING 20,000 TONS OF COD PER YEAR FROM FAEROESE WATERS. OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE FISHERIES AGREEMENTS WITH THE FAEROES INCLUDE POLAND, BELGIUM, NORWAY, WEST GERMANY, AND FRANCE. IN THE PAST, THE FAEROES HAVE SENT THEIR FLEET TO ICELAND AND EASTERN CANADA WHERE NEARLY 70 PERCENT OF THEIR TOTAL PRODUCTION IS OBTAINED. THE INCREASED CATCH WHICH THE FAEROESE FLEET WOULD REALIZE FROM ITS OWN WATERS, AFTER EXCLUSION OF THE FOREIGN FLEETS, WOULD NOT EQUAL THE TONNAGE WHICH THE FAEROESE CATCH IN FOREIGN WATERS. JESS NORGAARD, PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY, DANISH FISHERIES MINISTRY, TOLD RFA THAT HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE BEHIND FAEROESE EVALUATION OF THEIR FISHERIES POSITION IN VIEW OF THEIR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN WATERS. ONE FACTOR BEHIND THE FAEROESE DESIRE FOR THE 200 MILE ZONE IS THAT PRELIMINARY GEOLOGICAL TESTS INDICATED THE SUBSTRATA IN THEIR WATERS IS SIMILAR TO THAT FOUND IN OIL-PRODUCING REGIONS.

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SPECULATION IS THAT THE OIL FIELD RECENTLY LOCATED OFF THE ORKNEY ISLANDS COULD EXTEND NORTHWEST TO THE FAEROES.

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